



Spokane Tribe of Indians

Spokane Tribal 477

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To: Mr. Anthony M. Riley
Acting Division Chief, Division of Workforce
Ms. Jeanette Hanna
Deputy Bureau Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Indian Services
Mr. James Henry
Tribal Child Care Specialist, Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care

CC: Mr. Vincent M. Romero
Division of Workforce Development Specialist

Date: February 24, 2021

Re: HHS-CCDF CRRSA: Use of Funds- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Coronavirus
Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA) Funds

The Spokane Tribe of Indians is operating its CCDF program under a P.L. 102-477 Plan and intends to provide the following services in accordance with its approved 477 Plan and policies, as applicable.

Direct Child Care Services (Subsidies)

• Does the lead agency plan to use CRRSA funds to provide direct childcare services, including childcare subsidy assistance to health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, farm and other food service workers, and/or other workers deemed essential or frontline during the response to coronavirus? If yes, describe.

The Spokane Tribe of Indians will explore the possibility to use the CRRSA funds to provide direct childcare services including, but not limited to:

- Childcare subsidy assistance to health care sector employees;
- Emergency responders;
- Sanitation workers;
- Farm and other food service workers;
- and/or other workers deemed essential or frontline during the response to coronavirus by their employer.

The current 477 Plan may need to be amended to include these services.

Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices

• Does the lead agency plan to use CRRSA funds to provide resources, supplies, and/or technical assistance to childcare providers to support implementation of health and safety practices and policies in line with guidance from State and local health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)? If yes, describe.

The Spokane Tribe of Indians 477 Program will use CRRSA funds to purchase and provide resources for the following, but not limited to:

- Resources and equipment for its Child Care Centers and/or clientele;
- Supplies;
- Technical Assistance to childcare employees, providers and clientele to support implementation of health and safety practices and policies in line with guidance from State and local health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers

• Does the lead agency plan to use CRRSA funds to support the stability of the childcare sector to help childcare providers (program facilities and workforce) pay for increased operating expenses during the COVID-19 public health emergency? If yes, describe.

The Spokane Tribe of Indians 477 Program will explore the use of CRRSA funds to, but are not limited to:

- Support the stability of the childcare sector to help childcare providers (program facilities and workforce) pay for increased operating expenses during the COVID-19 public health emergency;
- Increase provider direct care rates and lower clientele copayment rates;
- Calculate monthly claims according to enrollment not attendance;
- Increase family income caps to ensure continual services;
- Utilize a Pandemic deduction for all families while calculating eligibility;
- Offer start up grants for new providers;
- Offer service grants for current providers.

The Spokane Tribe of Indians 477 Program will follow the approved plan and any approved tribal policy that is applicable.

Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic

• As required in CRRSA, how does the lead agency plan to use a portion of funds appropriated in CRRSA to provide assistance to CCDF-eligible childcare providers not participating in the subsidy system prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency?

The Spokane Tribe of Indians 477 Program will follow their approved 477 Plan and Tribal Policies and procedures in providing services to CCDF eligible providers.

Other

- *Does the lead agency plan to use a portion of CRRSA childcare funds for any other activities or assistance not described above? If yes, describe.*

The Spokane Tribe of Indians 477 Program approved 477 Plan and Tribal policies and procedures will be used to determine eligible expenses other than what is determined in the above statements. The Spokane Tribe of Indians has determined the funds may used for construction projects, a Construction/Renovation application will be sent in no later than July 1, 2021.

CCDF lead agencies that have not yet determined or finalized how they plan to spend all or a portion of their CRRSA funds prior to February 25 must indicate that they have not yet decided on how they plan to use their CRRSA allocations, submit any tentative or partial plans, and provide the status and timeline for finalizing those plans. Lead agencies should also note if additional guidance is needed to finalize plans.

Additional guidance is needed to finalize plans.

The Spokane Tribe of Indians 477 Program is still formulating plans on how to implement the CRRSA funding, and will work with DWD as additional guidance is needed.

Best Regards,

/s/

Tara L. Evans
Spokane Tribe of Indians
477 Child Development Manager